Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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P R 171410Z NOV 75 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3461 INFO USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 7535

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MRS. PERON DOES NOT SEE COUNCIL OR CABINET

REF: BA-7524

USCINCSO FOR POLAD.

- 1. SUMMARY: EVENTS OVER PAST 72 HOURS SEEM TO HAVE WIDENED WEDGE BETWEEN MRS. PERON AND HER COTERIE ON ONE HAND AND PERONISTS CONCERNED OVER HER LACK OF LEADERSHIP ON OTHER. MOREOVER, LATTER GROUP MAY BE JOINED BY SEVERAL KEY FIGURES UNLESS MRS. PERON ADOPTS MORE CONCILIATORY COURSE. END SUMMARY.
- 2. FLAP BEGAN WITH VERTICLAISTA DEPUTY ROLOLFO ARCE, REACTING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS FRIDAY (NOV 14) THAT INTERIOR MIN ROBLEDO HAD PROMISED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HE WOULD PERSUADE MRS. PERON TO RESIGN OR GO ON LEAVE (SEE REFTEL), RESIGNED HIS POSITION IN PROTEST AND HURLED FURIOUS VERBAL BARRAGE AT ROBLEDO, CALLING HIM A "TRAITOR" AND A "VIPER." NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PERONIST PARTY IMMEDIATELY MET, MINUS ITS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, ROBLEDO, WHO WAS THE OFFENDED PARTY. PRESIDED OVER BY SECOND VICE PRES, JOSE BAEZ, COUNCIL VOICED COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN ROBLEDO AND CHIDED ARCE FOR HIS INTEMPERATE OUTBURST. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS MEANWHILE HAD DENIED THAT ROBLEDO HAD MADE PROMISES CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY PRESS -- THOUGH FROM UCR SOURCES, EMBASSY

HAS NO DOUBT THAT HE IN FACT HAD MADE THEM).

- 3. NATIONAL COUNCIL THEN WENT TO OLIVOS TO SEEK URGENT MEETING WITH MRS. PERON IN ORDER, ACCORDING TO PRESS, TO EXPRESS "GRAVE CONCERN" OVER SITUATION IN GENERAL. SURPRISINGLY, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT BAEZ AND OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STAUNCH VERTICALISTAS, MRS. PERON'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, JULIO GONZALEZ, TOLD THEM TO COME BACK MONDAY. THIS LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION THAT MRS. PERON IS WITH-DRAWING INTO EVER CLOSER CIRCLE -- A CIRCLE CONTROLLED BY GONZALEZ (LAST WEEK MRS. PERON FIRED PRESS SECRETARY ENRIQUE OLMEDO AND APPOINTED GONZALEZ PROTEGE ELOY REBORA IN HIS PLACE) AND WHICH MAY NO LONGER INCLUDE ROBLEDO, OR EVEN BAEZ. SIGNIFICANTLY, AFTER GONZALEZ HAD REFUSED COUNCIL IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO MRS, PERON, CHAMBER OF DEPUTY PRES SANCHEZ TORANZO DESCRIBED ROBLEDO'S POSITION AS "STILL TO BE CLARIFIED" --THUS INDICATING THAT WHILE COUNCIL MIGHT HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIM, VERTICALIASTAS IN CHAMBER DID NOT.
- 4. IN MOVE PARALLEL TO THAT OF COUNCIL, A NUMBER OF PERONIST DEPUTIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS VERTICALISTAAS UNTIL NOW, GATHERED NOV 14 TO DEMAND (A) MEETING WITH MRS. PERON TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN, (B) THAT CONGRESS MEET WITHIN 48 HOURS, AND (C) CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION IN WHICH THERE SEEMS TO BE HIATUS OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.
- 5. MEANWHILE, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF MEETING WITH THEM IN HOSPITAL ON NOV 13, DURING WHICH ONLY PLEASANTRIES WERE EXCHANGED, MRS. PERON HAS NOT SEEN ANY OF HER CABINET MINISTERS IN WEEKS. IF THEY COMMUNICATE WITH HER AT ALL, IT IS THROUGH GONZALEZ. DEFENSE MIN VOTTERO REFERRED TO THIS SITUATION IN CONVERSATION WITH AMERICAN VISITOR ON NOV 13 AND SAID HE "DID NOT SEE HOW MRS. PERON COULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE."
- 6. THERE MAY BE CABINET MEETING TODAY (NOV 17) AND MINISTERS HOPE MRS. PERON WILL ATTEND. FURTHER, SHE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARTY TODAY. SHE COULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO COME OUT OF HER SHELL, RESUME DIRECTION OF CABINET, MAKE PEACE WITH ROBLEDO, ETC. IF SHE CONFIDENTIAL

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DOES NOT, SHE MAY RECEIVE RESIGNATION OF A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS AND FIND THAT SHE HAS ALIENATED SOME OF THE FEW SUPPORTERS SHE HAS LEFT.

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Subject: MRS. PERON DOES NOT SEE COUNCIL OR CABINET

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE), (ARCE, ROLONDO), (ROBLEDO, ANGEL FEDERICO) To: STATE

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